

Tenth Annual Cape Young Israel Conference

ENTHUSIASTIC GATHERING OF YOUTH.

Over one hundred Young Israelites from all over the Cape Province assembled in Capetown during the week-end, March 24th—25th, in order to participate in the Tenth Cape Young Israel Conference.

Although Conference was formally opened on Saturday night at 8 o'clock, the majority of the delegates, who were already in Capetown, attended the Conference Synagogue service in the Gardens Synagogue on Saturday afternoon, and thereby showed their attachment to Judaism, which is closely allied to Zionism.

Oneg Shabbos.

AFTER Synagogue, delegates proceeded to the Conference Oneg Shabbos, which was held in the Zionist Hall and which attracted a large crowd, including both delegates and Seniors. A most delightful atmosphere was created by the Youth, who threw themselves heartily into the spirit of Oneg Shabbos and lustily sang Hebrew songs which are being sung in Palestine.

Mr. I. Dunsky, organiser-secretary of the South African Zionist Youth Council, delivered an address on "The Fall of the Second Jewish State." In the course of his remarks Mr. Dunsky described the remarkable heroism, superb courage and wonderful skill displayed by the Jews in their defence against the Romans. Nevertheless, neither the heroism nor the determination of the Jews was of any avail because even while the Romans were knocking at the gates of Jerusalem, the Jews within were fighting among themselves, and in the very face of the enemy the various conflicting parties refused to unite and to subordinate their partisan quarrels to the welfare of the State.

Mr. Dunsky then went on to show the close similarity between the position to-day and that in those days. Only a section of the Jewish people believes and actively participates in the establishment of a National Home, and even that section, small as it is, is divided by internal dissensions. In the face of the enemy, in the time of stress and crisis through which we are at present passing, our work is being seriously hampered by internecine strife which is assuming alarming proportions. Many people have lost sight of the ultimate goal—the building of the Jewish National Home—and are placing their parties before the Jewish people and the Zionist ideal. No matter which party was in the right, without the assistance of all other parties it could never build up Palestine. Consequently, he appealed to the Youth to assist in uprooting the narrow partisan spirit from within the Zionist ranks by setting an example themselves and by incessant propaganda on every possible occasion. Zionism is the one and only ideal for which one must strive, and for the fulfilment of this ideal, all sections and shades of opinion within the Zionist ranks must unite and cooperate.

Conference Opens.

IN the evening delegates assembled for the formal opening of Conference. Dr. W. Altschul, chairman of the Conference, in his opening address pointed out the different methods which Zionists have to adopt in combating the crisis through which Jewry is passing. A message was read out from the Rev. A. P. Bender, who through indisposition was unfortunately unable to attend.

Mr. I. Ochberg, chairman of the Dorshei Zion Association, in declaring Conference duly open, emphasised the fact that it has been conclusively proved that Zionism affords the only solution to the Jewish problem. The Youth must do their utmost in creating a wave of desire amongst South African Jews to settle permanently in Palestine.

His Worship the Mayor, Councillor L. Gradner, in welcoming the delegates to the city, stated that he had never been so proud in officiating as Mayor as on this occasion. This was the first occasion on which he was faced with a number of young men and women of his own race, ready, in an age of jazz and motor cars, to make sacrifices for the sake of a national ideal. "In considering the position of Jewry to-day, one thing is clear—that it is essential and imperative to acknowledge leadership. We have suffered very seriously in the past, because of lack of loyalty to our leaders. Young Israel must learn and teach others to acknowledge leadership. Youth must unite, and by their example bring about more solidarity amongst Senior Zionists."

The Chalutz Scheme.

MR. I. DUNSKY referred to the success of the South African Chalutz scheme. He gave striking examples of the transformation that has taken place amongst certain sections of the Jewish Youth, much of which is due to the Chalutz scheme. Mr. Dunsky referred once more to the question of discipline, and to the necessity of the Youth helping to do away with the partisan spirit in Zionism.

At this stage it was announced, amidst tremendous applause, that Mr. I. Ochberg desired to donate £25 to the Chalutz scheme as a token of his appreciation.

Advocate P. M. Clouts then addressed Conference on behalf of the Capetown Hebrew Congregation, and offered a few words of kindly criticism.

Mr. M. Kentridge, M.P., on behalf of the South African Zionist Federation, referred to the desire which is permeating the South African Jewish Youth to go to Palestine. The Youth have an opportunity which the Seniors have not had. A strong foundation had been laid in Palestine for the establishment of the Jewish National Home. It was up to the Youth to see that that foundation should not be frittered away by internecine strife, but that a strong edifice should be built up.

Messages and Good Wishes.

MR. HERZL ZUCKERMAN, chairman of the Judean Central Council, thanked the speakers for their presence at and addresses to Conference. He read a stirring message to Conference from Mr. J. Herbstein, who, unfortunately, was out of town and unable to attend Conference. Messages and telegrams were also received from the South African Zionist Youth Council, the O.F.S. Zionist Youth Executive, Woodstock Young Israel Society, and Messrs. L. Lawrence, J. Rubik, L. Matthews, M. Bobrov, H. Kirsch and J. Greenstein.

The Lichtenstein Cup for the best all-round society was once again awarded to Ceres, with the Claremont Society as runners-up. The Rugby Cup was awarded to the Bellville Society.

Before the formal proceedings closed, Mr. E. Kluk, vice-chairman of the Judean Central Council, rose to pay a tribute to the retiring Chairman of Council, Mr. Herzl Zuckerman. "The most outstanding point about this Conference," said Mr. Kluk, "is the fact that it marks the close of Mr. Zuckerman's official connection with the leadership of the Young Israel Movement in the Cape. Mr. Zuckerman's sincerity, devotion, earnestness and energy have infused a new life, a new spirit into the movement."

On behalf of his colleagues on the Executive, Mr. Kluk presented to Mr. Zuckerman De Hass' Biography of Dr. Theodor Herzl, suitably inscribed.

Conference Discussions.

DISCUSSION on the Presidential report continued until late at night, and was continued on the following morning. One important point emerged, namely, that there are not enough up-to-date Zionist books and other material on hand in Capetown in order to do effective propaganda. It was suggested that the Dorshei Zion Association be approached in this connection, and be asked to bring the English section of the Zionist Hall Library up to date.

Conference unanimously decided to send a message to the Habonim Conference, wishing it every success.

An important feature of the morning session was an address by Dr. C. Resnekov, chairman of the Cape Committee of the S.A. Board of Jewish Education, on "Hebrew Education."

At midday delegates were entertained to a luncheon by the Dorshei Zion Association. Mr. I. Ochberg presided over the luncheon and practically all the prominent Senior Zionists of Capetown were present. Various toasts were proposed, which were interspersed with the singing of Hebrew songs. It was a most enjoyable function and all thanks are due to the Dorshei Zion Association for thus helping to cement the newly-formed bond between the Seniors and the Juniors.

The New Officers.

THE financial and "Menorah" reports were passed after some discussion, and Mr. Dunsky delivered the report of the South African Zionist Youth Council. Then followed the most important and interesting feature of the afternoon session, namely, the election of the new Executive. This is a departure from the old method, as it is the first time in the Cape that the incoming Executive has been elected at Conference. Amidst tremendous enthusiasm and excitement the following were elected: President, Mr. E. Kluk; vice-president, Mr. C. K. Friedlander; treasurer, Mr. J. Bobrov; joint secretaries, Miss L. Levy and Mr. A. J. Volks; additional members, Messrs. L. Cooper and A. Berezowski.

Conference concluded with the adoption of several resolutions relating to the studying of Hebrew, subscription to the "Menorah," etc.

Conference was not only a success, but showed the growing enthusiasm of the Youth for Zionism and all things Palestinian. The singing of Hebrew songs, the dancing of the Horah, the hustle and bustle at the special stalls which were set up for the sale and popularisation of Palestinian goods and books of Jewish interest, bore eloquent testimony to the fact that the Youth were active and very much active—only too eager to join in the fray and play their part in the building up of Palestine.

RED DAISY TEA is delicious and refreshing. Try it.